

875 **Teachers Training Courses.** Eight students graduated at the end of the school year from the teachers training class for secondary school students. They were posted to village and primary schools. At the beginning of the next term fifteen new students joined the class.

Evening classes for teachers were held during the term with an examination for certificates on the completion of the course.

Special Courses. In March, 1953, for the fourth time, the British Council Representative in Basra arranged a week's English course in Bahrain. This time the course was taken by Mr. W. R. Keight, M.B.E., of the British Council and Mr. W. Hedley, the British teacher lent by the Bahrain Petroleum Company. The aim of the course was to teach masters and students in training for teachers, the correct use of the Oxford University English Course books.

In the summer eleven senior primary school teachers attended a refresher course at the American University of Beirut which was arranged for teachers from Bahrain and other Arab states. They lived in the British Council Hostel and had their meals in the University.

873 **Higher Education.** Four more boys, who passed out of the Secondary School, went to Beirut University for further education, three of them had scholarships from the Government and one had a scholarship from the Bahrain Petroleum Company. Two students were nominated for scholarships in Baghdad schools, allocated by the Government of Iraq to boys from Bahrain. One of these boys, however, did not take up the scholarship but entered the American University of Beirut at his own expense.

Again some of the Shaikhs and merchants sent their sons, sometimes after finishing only primary education, to schools and colleges abroad, in Beirut, Syria, Egypt and England, in one case a member of the Ruling Family was sent to a University in America. Privately made arrangements for educating young men abroad are not always successful, students who go to Europe, not under the auspices of the Government, seem disinclined to stick to one line of learning, sometimes they wander from one school to another which is an expensive waste of time.

873 177 183 It is very doubtful whether at present the education of Bahrain boys at schools in England is beneficial to them or desirable. A few boys who were at school in England have returned to Bahrain and if they can be taken as typical of the results of a European education then it is clear that the experiment is not usually successful. Parents, who in many cases have never been in Europe, send their sons to English schools with the hope that they will return equipped and eager to help their fathers in their business. The boys return. They have acquired some education, sufficient to make them critical and contemptuous of many things in their own homes and country, they resent having to resume the life which they used to lead and they have no inclination to settle down in Bahrain.

871 The Bahrain schools provide primary education for all and secondary education for a limited number of boys. The standard of education is about on a level with that in similar schools in other states in the Middle East. It is not proposed that higher education should be introduced in Bahrain, this can be obtained in neighbouring Arab countries, particularly at the American University of Beirut where 31 boys from Bahrain are now studying, 16 hold scholarships from the Government, four have scholarships from the Bahrain Petroleum Company and 11 are studying there at their own expense. In addition, the Government has sent six young men to study religion in Mecca and in Iraq.

873 658 Another 20 Bahrain boys are being educated, at their own expense, in schools and colleges in England and in the Middle East.

The policy of the Government is to give scholarships for higher education to boys from Bahrain schools to universities in the Middle East; it does not send boys to schools in England. It does, however, send young men from various government departments to do courses in England in the type of work on which they are employed in Bahrain. These candidates are sent at Government expense or, sometimes, they are granted bursaries by the British Council. This arrangement has produced satisfactory results in the case of men from the Passport Department, Municipalities, Technical School, Electric Department, Public Works Department and State Police. Men who have held positions of some responsibility for some years in Government service are improved by such courses in England and do not return to Bahrain with unsettled minds.